



The Kansas Explorers Club is created to inspire, educate, and encourage the exploration and appreciation of Kansas...and to have fun doing it! Explorers are urged to look for the rural culture elements in each town — architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history, and people.

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EXPLORER TOURISM Part of the adventure is connecting to the locals.

WenDee LaPlant, assistant director of KSF, and I are on a journey to every incorporated city in Kansas to research for the next *Kansas Guidebook for Explorers*.

People ask what we do when we first get into a town. The answer: Start talking to a local.

Jose and the Windmill Restaurant, Spearville¹



It's 1:45 p.m. We've already had a satisfying lunch at the 4P in Bucklin followed by a large cherry limeade from the Main Street Market. Traveling north on backroads, we arrived in Spearville.

We walk into the Windmill restaurant which is empty at this time of day and meet owner Jose and his family. Though Jose's English is limited we can easily communicate. He led us to the kitchen where we watched enchiladas being seasoned on the grill, sauce bubbling in a pan, and chicken being fried in a skillet. Before we could resist, a heaping, delicious plate of food was put in front of us. Jose brought out a lawn chair to sit by us. His girls joined him, with his wife in the booth next to us.



Our conversation ranged from cafe ownership and what it was like to have 99% of his customers be white to his family in Mexico and his good life in Spearville. It was one of those priceless Explorer experiences.

COFFEE DRINKERS IN MANKATO²

We had questions. The county clerks couldn't answer all of them so they sent us to the pharmacy to find Millie at the coffee table. Millie wasn't there that day but after we explained what we were doing and were properly vetted, we had quite a lively and informative conversation with the other coffee drinkers. We left full of smiles.

Dare to visit locals — and you'll get connected.

TAKE A WONDER-FULL TRIP

Sometimes the most difficult part of planning a day trip is picking a destination. Once that is done, you can just plug in Explorer concepts and you'll be on your way to day trippin' success.

Below you'll find Explorer concepts and throughout the newsletter you'll find sample itineraries compiled from our statewide travels or from the 216 destination options in the *8 Wonders of Kansas Guidebook*.

See the ERV blog at kansassampler.org/erv to find more information about our statewide Explorer Research Voyage.

WHAT EXPLORERS DO...

We...

- ◆ Dare to do dirt. (Take the backroads).
- ◆ Talk to the locals. (Locals love being asked about their town).
- ◆ Feel good about spending money in a small town. (Every dollar makes a difference, especially at a small post office or grocery store).
- ◆ Don't judge. (Appreciate a town for what it is and the drama of it's life. Get to know it rather than form opinions due to appearance).
- ◆ Have fun! Choose an Explorer Quest like eat coconut crème pie in every county, play Explorer Auto Bingo, make charts, i.e. bird, wildlife, rural culture elements). (*Call if you want a Quest Kit*).
- ◆ See Kansas with New Eyes (Look for the 8 rural culture elements wherever you go: Architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history, and people).



Featuring the rural culture elements of geography, art, cuisine, architecture...

LIVING LARGE IN THE NORTHWEST

A map in the *8 Wonders of Kansas Guidebook* indicates the location of each of the 216 entries in the 8 Wonders contests. If you use this sample itinerary, you'll find yourself living large in Northwest Kansas.

MONUMENT ROCKS, Gove County³

From I-70 Quinter exit #107, go 15 miles south to GO 80 and GO K and follow signs east.

Time changes things. Kansas used to be under water. That was 80 million years ago. The Monument Rocks, also known as the Chalk Pyramids, are eroded remnants of that time. The chalky sentinels appear in a cattle pasture like pop-up features. You can touch, but don't climb.

BUFFALO BILL STATUE, U.S. 83 & 2nd, Oakley⁴

The legend of how Buffalo Bill got his nickname is even bigger than this double-life sized statue. Two "Bills" had a contest in this part of the state in 1868 to determine who would get to use the nickname, Buffalo Bill. Bill Cody won. Charlie and Pat Norton's detailed bronze sculpture symbolizes the story.

COOPER BARN, Colbys

Prairie Museum of Art & History,
905 S. Franklin

The largest barn open to the public is the Cooper Barn, built in 1936 to house Hereford show cattle. The most amazing part might be that this 66 feet wide by 114 feet long by 48 feet high monster was moved 16 miles in 1991 to the historical complex.



CRAZY R's, 1018 Main, Goodland⁶

It's owner Rod Cooper as well as the steaks that made this place a Wonder finalist. Antiques adorn the walls and an abundance of temptations are found on the menu. While in town, see the Section Art mural in the post office (11th & Broadway) and at U.S. 24 & Cherry take a look upward at the largest reproduction of a Van Gogh sunflower painting in the U.S.



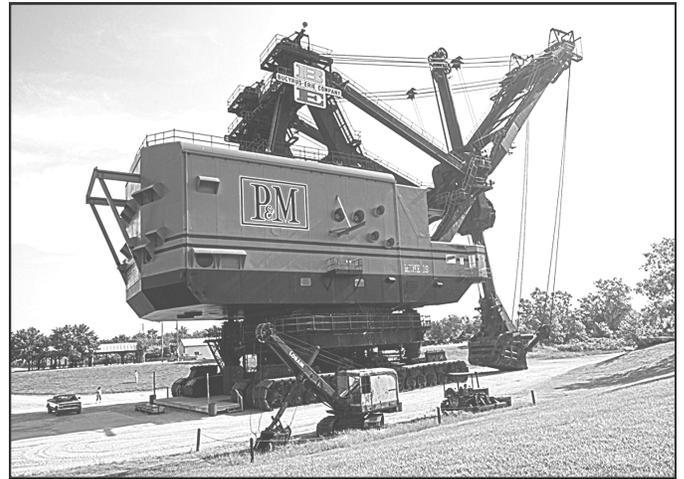
MOUNT SUNFLOWER, Wallace County⁷

Go east on I-70 from Goodland to Kanorado and then many backroad miles south on Road 3

In 1961, the highest point in the state was determined to be in Ed Harold's pasture in Wallace County. Crossing the cattle guard gives you a good start to your ascent. Finally, at 4,039 feet above sea level you'll get to the commemorative area. Write something in the mailbox notebook about your climb.

BE MINE-FUL IN THE SOUTHEAST

If you're not from southeast Kansas, it might be strange to think about lead, zinc, and coal mining as a major industry. Go to each of these attractions and you'll see southeast Kansas with new eyes.



BIG BRUTUS, West Minerals⁸

You can't find a Kansas man-made attraction larger than this 160-foot tall electric coal shovel. Just the story of how it got there is pretty remarkable but the practical story is that for 11 years (1963-1974), 24 hours a day, moving at a pace of .22 mph, it tore the overburden off of coal seams. A nearby museum provides a photographic and informational overview.

JOSIE'S RISTORANTE, 3rd & Main, Scammon⁸

Josie's is close to Big Brutus but only open Wednesday-Saturday from 5-9 p.m. Grandmother Josie's recipes from Italy gives this dining experience a taste from the "old country." Josie's family came to be coal miners.

LEAD & ZINC COAL MINING

Baxter Springs⁸, 740 E. Avenue. Viewing displays at this historical museum will provide a great introduction to the chief industry of this area from 1877 to 1945.

Galena⁸, 319 W. 7th on K-26. If you are lucky to find the depot museum open, you'll see some photos and artifacts that focus on the stark reality of the times. While in Galena, go to Schermerhorn Park (1 1/2 miles south of Galena on K-26), one of the 8 Wonders Geography finalists.

MINED LAND AREAS, Crawford⁹ & Cherokee⁸ Cos.

See them along U.S. 69 and county backroads

From the 1920s to 1974, strip-mining cleared the ground and left deep ditches and high ridges in its wake. Now, reclaimed strip pits brim with water and sport a wooded environment to attract birds, wildlife, fishermen, birdwatchers, berry pickers, and canoeists.

CONTINUED from p. 2, Southeast Trip

AMAZON ARMY, Pittsburg¹⁰

In 1921, several thousand courageous women marched across southeast Kansas to protest against unfair labor laws for their men in the coalfields. The Miner's Memorial, 2nd and Walnut, is a moving tribute to the men and women who dedicated their lives to lead, zinc and coal mining and includes a historical plaque about the Amazon Army. A mural at the Pittsburg library, 308 N. Walnut, depicts the scene.



LONGEST SIDEWALK, Franklin to Arma⁹ Franklin is 5 miles north of Frontenac

The world's longest sidewalk stretching between two towns was built in 1936. When the Franklin school closed a safe route was needed for these kids of mining families to walk to Arma. Start in unincorporated Franklin at the community center/mining museum to acquaint yourself with this 1.7 mile long sidewalk.

FRIED CHICKEN

At different times, two miners were injured on the job so their wives started serving fried chicken to make family income. Chicken Mary's and Chicken Annie's became so popular that other chicken restaurants sprang up. The *8 Wonders Guidebook* lists six. Good luck picking from the six great choices!

IN BETWEEN

Consider these listed places as main stops between all sorts of other things you can see and do. Kansas is an infinite source of explorer treasures!

8 WONDERS OF KANSAS GUIDEBOOK



It's a keepsake picture book that shares Kansas. It's a book that provides destination options and information. It's a book that helps you know and love Kansas.

Go to 8wonders.org to order online or to find a list of retail stores.

Featuring the rural culture elements of customs, art...

SHOES, SHAKES, RABBITS and MORE

Ride round and round on a Rabbit and see a mind-bending cemetery memorial. Those are just two things on this tour taken from a variety of categories in the *8 Wonders of Kansas Guidebook*.

ROUND n' ROUND

CAROUSEL, 320 S. Esplanade, Leavenworth¹¹

Pick from horses, rabbits, ponies, a chariot and a "lovers tub" on this 1914 Parker carousel! Open Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m.

IT'S NOT YOUR AVERAGE GRAVESTONE DAVIS MEMORIAL, Hiawatha¹²

Mount Hope Cemetery, 1/2 mile east on Iowa.

Among all the regular gravestones is this granite memorial featuring eleven life-sized statues showing stages of John and Sarah's life. Built during the Great Depression, the citizens wished John Davis would've spent his money on a hospital instead.

DELIVERING ART

SECTION ART in the POST OFFICE

HORTON¹², 825 1st Ave. See the 1938 *Picnic in Kansas* mural and the 1939 *Changing of Horses for the Pony Express*, both by artist Kenneth Evett.

SENECA¹³, 607 Main. Joe Jones' 1940 mural is called *Men and Wheat*.

SABETHA¹³, 122 S. 9th. Another Pony Express mural depicting a rider and overland stagecoach is called *The Hare and the Tortoise*. At Main and Washington look at exterior tile murals depicting area history.

BRING AN OLD SHOE

SHOE TREE, near Wetmore¹³

One mile west of Wetmore on K-9, ten 5 miles north on W Road, then 1 mile Weston 80th.

Though high winds haven't been kind to the shoe tree, it's still a legendary tree. Bring an old shoe and add it to the collection. Sign the notebook!

WOW!

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, St. Benedict¹³
1 mile west of Seneca on U.S. 36, 3 miles north on K-178, then 1/2 mile west. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Open a heavy church door and step inside. In 1901 G.F. Satory went in to this church and used it as his palette. You'll like what he did with the walls, ceiling, cast iron columns, vault ribs, and window openings. The stained glass and paintings are a bonus.

WILL YOU HAVE A SHAKE AT EACH ONE?

Sidle up to the old-fashioned soda fountains in Atchison, Holton, Leavenworth, Sabetha, and Seneca. Each one is different so experience them all! Come on explorers, it's up to us to do these kind of things!

WHILE ERVING, WE FIND THE UNEXPECTED

ERV = Explorer Research Voyage

We share updates as we travel on Facebook:

[Facebook/ervoyage](https://www.facebook.com/ervoyage)

Read more stories and pictures on the ERV

blog: kansassampler.org/erv



The best thing about exploring is finding all sorts of little things to get excited about. A small town is like a blank brochure. You fill it in with what you find and it becomes as rich as your search.

GEMS IN FORD COUNTY¹

BUCKLIN

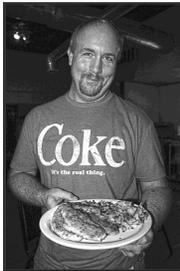


MAIN STREET MARKET, 102 N. Main:

The best limeades in the state are made by Loretta at the Main Street Market, with syrup made at the store! Use a bar code reader app on your smartphone to watch how Loretta makes the perfect limeade.

4P RESTAURANT, 103 N. Main:

Starving, we entered hoping to find a decent restaurant. Within seconds, we knew we had tripped upon a gem. Located in one of those long, narrow old buildings, it has been restored beautifully by Buddy and Linaka Probst. Some of you will remember the Old Weigh Station at Sitka. Buddy, cook and baker, is the son of that Buddy Probst! Everything here is made from scratch. Along with Buddy's homemade bread and carefully made everything, the blackboard menu lists a "bucket of crap." What? The contents are a host of fried appetizers. It's a fun place. Every table has a different pair of salt and pepper shakers, too. A trendy-looking bar is located in a room next to the main room.



MACKIE SHAE MERCANTILE,

in the front of 4P! Colorful and well decorated, between the tin pressed ceilings and shiny floors is Linaka's first-rate gift mercan-

tile! It's named after her dog.

PARK: The 1910 Dakota sandstone stage is a mixture of ruins and restoration.

FORT DODGE

PARADE FIELD: The old parade field is on the west end of Fort Dodge right by U.S. 400. You can zoom by or stop to see memorials to General Funston, the Disabled American Veterans Department, the mother of a soldier who was a Japanese Prisoner of War and many others. A fountain, horseshoe pits, bridge, waterway add to it.

CHAPEL: Go inside the Fort Dodge Chapel to see the semi-circular pews! Last week 12 attended the service.

SURPRISES IN OTTAWA COUNTY!¹⁴

MINNEAPOLIS

ICE CREAM: Want ice cream? Head to the hardware store! Order from the sidewalk window or in the store.

ALLEY ENTRANCE, 307 W. 2nd: On Friday nights you'll see people walking into the alley behind the Blue Moon Store. Kermit will be grilling steaks beside the entrance to the basement Blue Moon restaurant. It's nothing fancy but completely fun! 785.392.3491.

THE VIRGINIAN, 101 E. 10th. Originally an army barracks, this long, narrow 3.2 bar and grill serves up a tasty lunch. Hidden on the edge of town, the porch makes it inviting. 785.392.2397.

DELPHOS

CEMETERY, east of town on K-141.

- ◆ Grace Bedell Billings, famous for telling Abe Lincoln that her brothers would vote for him if he grew a beard, is buried here. Enter at the main gate, about halfway down on the east side of the drive is the Billings family stone.
- ◆ Three rows across the driveway to the west, you'll find a covered wagon etched on a stone.
- ◆ To the north and closer to the driveway are several gravestones for the Eames family. Douglas Eames gravestone says, "All things have an end, except a sausage...it has two."
- ◆ A clawfoot gravestone is just south of the Billings.

KT JTC. Tired, hot and thirsty, we hoped this bar and grill on the downtown square would have a cold pop. We opened the door and wow — but that's how it works when exploring. The outside doesn't always tell the story. Big and roomy with dark olive green interconnecting V-shaped booths, the community is so lucky to have this multi-functional 3.2 bar and grill.



GREAT IDEA: The library was closed but we saw all shapes and sizes of cake pans on the wall. Community members can come in and check them out!

QUEST REPORTS!

It's fun to hear what other Explorers are doing. Report your Quest choice or updates to marci@kansassampler.org.

Twenty-year old Nick Larmer, KE #24 of Colby, is halfway to his quest of hiking across Kansas. In May, he covered K-9 through Beloit and Concordia. He started at the Colorado border and is walking it in sections.

Don and Janet Shepherd, KE's #659, have decided on their quest. They will document travels to every county. In addition to spending money, they will fill notebooks with notes, observations, and pictures. Their Explorer credo is: "I see new things, I go to new places, I experience all, I explore." AWESOME!

Connie Hachenberg, KE #5474, finished her impressive quest of visiting all two towns in the state that end with "worth." Going to Leavenworth and Ellsworth has earned her a Quest certificate!

BEST PLAYGROUND IN THE STATE:

Rock City near Minneapolis!



Continued from p. 4

FINDING THE UNEXPECTED

TESCOTT in Ottawa County¹⁴

BEAUTY: South of the Bank of Tescott you'll find a landscaped resting spot called Hal's Hangout. Hal is Hal Berkley, retired bank president and chairman of the board. Roses, lilies, hollyhocks, lavender, grasses and more surround Dakota sandstone boulders and a gazebo. They frame a mural showing T.E. Scott, the founder of the town, and a sheepherder. At the museum, on Minnesota, is another pocket of beauty. It's all a sweet surprise.

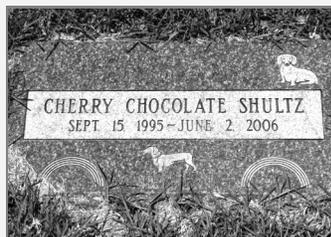


BENNINGTON in Ottawa County

Soda fountain: Open Monday-Saturday 3-9 p.m., The Linger Longer, 199 N. Nelson, is one of the most nostalgic soda fountain experiences in the state. Sit and squiggle at the counter with your foot on the brass rail. Do ask how to get to the state fishing lake!

RENO COUNTY¹⁵

West of Hutchinson: We went five miles west of town on 4th Street to see the plaque that tells that President Warren Harding combined wheat here in 1923. While there we found the Penwell-Gabel cemetery across the road. We found intricate tree sculptures and especially liked the one in the pet cemetery area!



PLEASANTVIEW: From U.S. 50 and K-61 at South Hutchinson, Pleasantview is 8 miles southwest on K-61. This shopping area boasts a bulk food store that has everything, a fabric store, an Amish furniture store, and the Dutch Kitchen, where a heated up cinnamon roll should be eaten at any point of the day! Cont'd on p. 7

WELCOME TO THE EXPLORER FAMILY!

This is a list of those who have joined since the last newsletter and through June 1. Special thanks to gift givers.

- #6140 Marieta & Tom Hauser, Johnson
- #6142 Carla Strand, Salina
- #6143 Craig, Holly, Brock, Ty, Trae, Megan & Paige Lofton, Lindsborg
- #6145 Terry & Carol Moore, St. George
- #6146 Anita & Henry Strnad, Munden
- #6147 Amy Thompson, Sterling
- #6148 Jody Zeman, WaKeeney
- #6149 Leroy Wetta, Peabody
- #6151 Bailis Bell, Wichita
- #6152 Vickie & Jon Woodward, Lawrence
- #6153 Jo Ann, Daniel, & Alex Lerew, Oberlin
- #6154 Kandi Keathley, Ness City
- #6155 Lydia & Greg Augustine, Liberal
- #6156 Denae Weber, Liberal
- #6157 Lois Swonger, Minneola
- #6158 Melissa & Izzy Heathman and Jerry & Judy Ruttman, Liberal
- #6159 Carol & Terry Laws, Leoti
- #6160 Angel, Eric, Hannah and Noah Shaver, WaKeeney
- #6161 Janis & Michael Murphy, Sylvia
- #6162 Margaret Jacobs, Muscotah
- #6164 Daniel, Sherry & Shelisa Fick, Liberal
- #6165 Lowell & Carol Regehr, Manhattan
- #6166 Dana Soetaert, Lawrence
- #6167 Shanda Mattix, Colby
- #6168 Judy & Johnny Inverarity, Lawrence
- #6169 Josh Ribble, Newton
- #6170 Ronda, Charles, Gwen & Emily Crossland, Atchison

THANKS RENEWERS!

Each one of you is important to us.

(This is a list of those who have renewed between the last newsletter and June 1)

- #26 Jean-Ellen Kegler, Prescott, AZ
 #27 Susie Haver, Concordia
 #28 Patrycia Ann Herndon, Dighton
 #71 Joyce Thierer & Ann Birney, Admire
 #108 Jay & Lisa Yoder, Partridge
 #185 Barbara Shunn, Concordia
 #193 Georgia Maxwell, Partridge
 #431 Roger & Shirley Lemmons, Lawrence
 #500 Dollie Mathes, Harper
 #536 Dan & Ellen Murphy, Goddard
 #552 Alan & Sharla Krenzel, Leoti
 #679 Dee Reid, Admire
 #688 Jane & Felix Dreher, Pittsburg
 #705 Debbie & John Divine, Salina
 #721 Douglas Hickman, Lucas
 #874 Bob & Connie Chance, Augusta
 #885 Charles & Alison Guthrie, Jetmore
 #889 Betty Dunhaupt, Topeka
 #960 Herb & Sarah Wyrick, Emporia
 #1075 Neysa Eberhard, Newton
 #1108 J.W. & Anna Jean Minor, Ashland
 #1127 Jo Ann Combs, Turpin, OK
 #1190 Dan & Cathy Albert, WaKeeney
 #1204 Anne Greitl, Topeka
 #1212 Kaye Kuhn, Medicine Lodge
 #1217 Steve & Dede Caplinger, Effingham
 #1469 Arlene F. Krug, Russell
 #1558 Eric & Kathy Sexton, Derby
 #1664 Marilyn McGown, Tonganoxie
 #1698 Phil Esau, Topeka
 #1723 Tom Seltmann, Larned
 #1806 Marilyn and Charlie Wooster, Topeka
 #1931 Jack & Virginia Steele, Wichita
 #2082 Sharon Steenson, Waterville
 #2090 Belinda & Mike Adams, New Albany
 #2242 Michael Fox & Sue Schlegel, Lindsborg
 #2388 Patricia & David Flores, Northridge, CA
 #2389 Cathi & Dave Hahner, Bonner Springs
 #2402 Glenda Owens, Garden City
 #2403 Mary Ann Wenner, Hutchinson
 #2492 Jean Barber, Iola
 #2500 Ann Zimmerman & Dexter Eggers, Salina
 #2555 Sue Eastep, Cherryvale
 #2645 Ken & Iralea Barnard, Hope
 #2719 Rosa Thomas, Whiting
 #2805 Ida Lou Combs, Clearwater
 #2893 Betty Poppe, Wichita
 #2908 Laurel Rickard, Medicine Lodge
 #2987 Dick & Norma Mosier, Herington
 #3030 Lu Pankratz, Larned
 #3053 R.A. & Terry Edwards, Hutchinson
 #3223 John Rich, Shawnee
 #3276 Mary Alice Pacey, Washington
 #3287 Kenneth Tewell, Bonner Springs
 #3434 Cynthia & Richard Carl, Eastborough
 #3461 Eileen & Hank Ernst, Topeka
 #3467 Janice Tucker, Wichita
 #3503 Mary Burchill, Lawrence
 #3547 Rod & Sue Weinmeister, Hutchinson
 #3570 Barb Tuxhorn, Inman
 #3595 Teresa Weaver, Salina
 #3678 Bob, Shirley, Katie, & Tyler Black, Howard
 3692 Deanna Waggaman, Wichita
 #3693 Ruth & Glenn Rodden, Holton
 #3737 Teresa Huffman, Marion
 #3918 Duane & Shirley Bohm, Elk Falls
 #4020 Steffanie Steele, Wichita
 #4021 William Smith, Hoxie
 #4054 Janelda Harkness, Ness City
 #4055 Yvette Schlegel, Ness City
 #4389 Karol McChesney, Munden
 #4401 Mildred Zeigler, Junction City
 #4405 Nancy & Don Harness, Garden City
 #4437 Grady & Cinda Atwater, Osawatomie
 #4547 Patti Broyles Harper, Severy
 #4645 Chris & Sarah Green, Wichita
 #4691 Mary Martin, Iola
 #4750 Pat Osborne, Blue Rapids
 #4983 Sandie Masden, Dodge City
 #4986 Kaye Page, Leawood
 #5018 Jane Ann Carlgren, Scandia
 #5038 Roger & Joanne Pridey, Salina
 #5044 Kathy & Randy Dubbert, Downs
 #5057 Jerri Drummond, Minneapolis
 #5067 Ann Swenson, Wichita
 #5069 Liz Sosa, Garden City
 #5118 Laura Phillippi, Leavenworth
 #5156 Lisa & Jim French, Partridge
 #5182 Beverly & Robert Brejcha, Independence
 #5185 Jami, Mike & Wayland Tracy, Valley Center
 #5246 Richard & Joan Wells, Wichita
 #5256 Laura Dungan & Aaron Fowler, Wichita
 #5276 Robert May, Topeka
 #5351 Steve Christy, Kansas City
 #5395 Keith & Rita Kraushaar, Riley
 #5402 Barb Smith, Liberal
 #5444 Morris & Michelle Crisler, Wamego
 #5445 Gary & Bunny McCloud, Wamego
 #5447 Shelia Blackford, Federal Heights, CO
 #5451 Shirley Higgins, McCracken
 #5460 Gregg Barr, Lenexa
 #5466 Terry & Jeannie Johnson, Olsburg
 #5474 Connie Hachenberg, Leavenworth
 #5501 Robyn Deines, Ness City
 #5507 Rita Kurtz, Larned
 #5508 Carl & Betsy Riblett, Wamego
 #5512 David & Sunny Shreeve, Humboldt
 #5577 Virginia & Glen Vick, Arkansas City
 #5589 Winston & Abby Amick, Alma
 #5681 Andi Andres, North Newton
 #5685 Kristin & Stephen Graue, Louisburg
 #5686 Elmer Brown, Cuba
 #5698 Darrel & Sylvia Steinshouer, Wichita
 #5707 Don & Elaine Webb, Prairie Village
 #5709 John & Linda Scheer, Leavenworth
 #5711 Connie Mitchell, Eureka
 #5715 Ronna Stump, Liberal
 #5716 Brenda Staggenborg, Marysville
 #5717 Bonnie Feldhausen, Frankfort
 #5718 Patsy Guinn, Liberal
 #5753 Maura & Mark Garcia, Lawrence
 #5846 Jim Thorn, Wichita
 #5856 Jerry Zimmerman, Sterling
 #5913 Lindsey and Sheila Bredemeyer, Bryan, TX
 #5917 Jan & Julie Steen, Lucy, Maddy, and Harris, Hutchinson
 #5925 Cora Lee & Warren Park, Oakley
 #5948 Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Yenni, Wakefield
 #5955 Jennifer Berquist, Lawrence
 #5972 Annette Cline, Onaga
 #5975 Jeanne & Marc Cottrell, Garden City
 #5980 Debbie Liggatt, Muscotah
 #5982 Carole Owsley, Lee's Summit
 #5986 Barbara Zuel, Osawatomie
 #5989 Karl Kastens, Topeka
 #6000 Lynn Smith, Reading
 #6008 Carl and Barb Vincent, Dodge City



8 WONDERS OF KANSAS UPDATE

Since the book was printed in 2011 **Trapper's Bar & Grill** in Simpson¹⁶ has closed.

Hibachi Hut has closed but will reopen at a later date with new ownership, at 429 Poyntz, in Manhattan¹⁷.



Kansas Explorers Club Membership and Renewal Form

Explorers Name _____ Names for family membership: _____

First-timer ____; Renewal ____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Gift membership to: _____ Mailing address _____

This is a gift from: _____ (Gift card will be enclosed).

Annual dues: Individual membership \$18.61; family \$30. (Family membership prior to #881 is grandfathered in at \$18.61)

Check is enclosed ____ or Visa or Master Card # _____ Exp. date _____

Name on card _____

I'd like to add a donation to support the ERV research trip _____. My payment is for ____ years of membership.

Continued from page 5

UNEXPECTED FINDS!

JEWELL COUNTY₂

SCENIC DRIVE: The dare-to-do-dirt drive from U.S. 36 at Formoso north through and around the line of hills along White Rock Creek then north at the ghost town of Lovewell past irrigation canals and on to Lovewell Reservoir showcases the wooded, lush areas that makes this such a scenic county.

MANKATO: Across from the school at 303 N. West, and almost hidden in a tiny pocket garden, is a memorial to Thomas Edison. The plaque on the granite memorial says it was erected out of gratitude for his inventions and as inspiration for youth.

While in town look for the old jail, the YMCA building, Possibilities, Hidden Treasures, and the WPA-built courthouse. Stay at the Crest-View Motel!

REASONS TO EXPLORE THESE SMALL TOWNS

WEBBER: Buy stamps at the post office in the depot and find the anvil in the nearby park.



BURR OAK: The 1909 Queen Anne home just north of town and the old two-story school just east of Main are good reasons to go here.

JEWELL: See the semi-circular pews in the Methodist church at 503 N. Main. Can you find the Robbery Alarm on Main Street?

RANDALL: The old school and marker is on Second.

EXPLORER TRACKINGS

KEs #3198 Rick and Jane Hitchcock were part of a bus group that ate a lunch at an Amish Farm (Yoder's Kitchen on Rock Road) near **Yoder**¹⁵. "We ate too much. It was so good!", said Rick. Later the group visited downtown Yoder, the Yoder Furniture Store and Yoder Meats.

KE #1809 Del Ruff said the Diamond W Wrangler concert at the redecorated theater in **Pretty Prairie**¹⁵ was outstanding and that it's a must to eat at the Pretty Prairie Steakhouse before the concert.

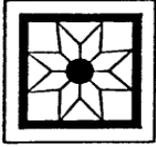
KE #2893 Betty Poppe enjoyed a day of wondering in the open Flint Hills around the **Matfield Green**¹⁸ area.

SUPPORTING ERV

If you're reading this, it means that you already support the Kansas Sampler Foundation through a membership to the Kansas Explorers Club. These memberships are the anchor of our funding.

It's a pricey undertaking to go to every town in the state and the financial return won't happen until the guidebook is on the market, which will be Christmas 2015. Even a small donation helps us get around one more turn and over one more hill. We personally pay for our own meals so any contribution you make would go for gas, lodging, and time.

To donate online, go to kansassampler.org. For \$100, we'll make you a day sponsor. For \$500, you or your organization get a photo and two links on the ERV blog page, kansassampler.org/erv. Even ten dollars makes a difference. If you'd like to send a check, send to 978 Arapaho Road, Inman, KS 67546. All gifts are tax deductible. Thank you so much.



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Featuring the rural culture elements of art, history, customs...

SEE YOU WAY BACK IN TIME AT THE VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME July 27, 4 p.m. in Muscotah¹⁹!

Bring your lawn chair to a grass lot under the water tower to watch the Old Cowtown Base Ball Club from Wichita play the Hodgeman Nine of Hodgeman County.

Uniforms, equipment and rules from the 1870s will be used by the teams. The umpire will educate the crowd about the rules.

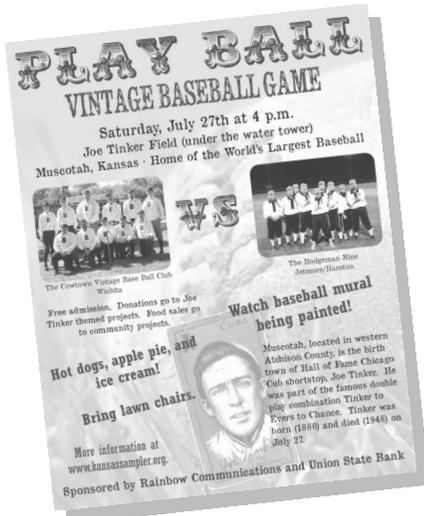
We, the crowd, will sing "Take me out to the ballgame" during the 7th inning stretch and the local ladies will serve hot dogs, apple pie and ice cream.

Donations will go towards the Joe Tinker-themed attractions. Food sales will go to community projects.

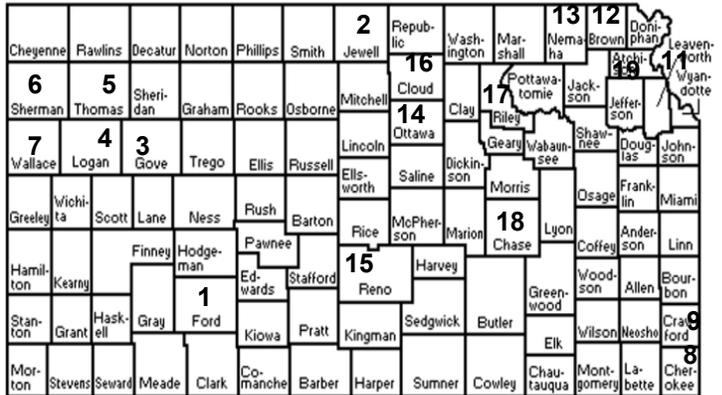
Days before the game and on July 27, artists Erika Nelson and Matthew Farley will be painting a celebratory Joe Tinker baseball mural on the concession stand. Baseball fans should also check out the new World's Largest Baseball

which will someday boast a rural baseball and community museum.

July 27 is Joe Tinker Day as proclaimed by the Kansas House of Representatives. Tinker was born in Muscotah July 27, 1880 and died on July 27, 1948. Tinker became a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame and was part of the dynamic double-play combination Tinker to Evers to Chance.



FIND EACH COUNTY HERE



CHICKEN FRIED STEAK

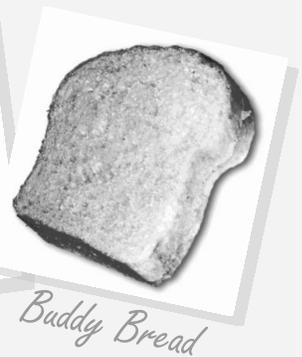
The criteria for the Explorer Way chicken fried steak is:

- 1) Fresh meat
- 2) Hand breaded
- 3) Pan or grill fried (not deep fat fried)

Here's the latest place to meet criteria!

4P Restaurant, 103 N. Main, Bucklin¹

Open Tuesday-Thursday 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 6 a.m.-10 p.m. For \$9.95 you get a big chicken fried steak, real mashed potatoes and gravy, a Buddy-baked piece of bread, and vegetable.



Buddy Bread